266 80

WILLIAM L. SCOTT
VIRGINIA

P780137-0967

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
JUDICIARY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 31, 1978

37

ACTION
is assigned to
NEA

The Honorable Cyrus Vance
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The enclosed letter from my constituent, Mr. Carl L. Shipley, of Virginia, is self-explanatory.

It would be appreciated if you would please forward your comment regarding the story which appeared in the London TIMES that General Moshe Dayan, Israel's Defense Minister in 1967, gave the order to attack and sink the U.S.S. Liberty so that I may respond to Mr. Shipley's concern.

Thank you for your continued courtesy.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

William L. Scott, U.S.S.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Wm. Kelly DATE 1/24/83
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
T$ AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

WLS:nls
Enclosure

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
DOCUMENT ANALYSIS
1978 SEP 6 PM 8
RECEIVED
TIMES

LAW OFFICES
SHIPLEY SMOAK & AKERMAN
1108 NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20045
(202) 783-1047

NEW YORK OFFICE
130 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS

OF COUNSEL
E. EDWARD STEPHENS

August 21, 1978

Honorable William L. Scott
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 21510

Dear Bill:

I was appalled to read recently in the August 8, 1978, edition of the London Times that our State Department has confirmed that General Moshe Dayan, Israel's Defense Minister in 1967, gave the order to attack and sink the U. S. S. Liberty, one of our ships.

This is a matter which should be made a more permanent record by insertion in the Congressional Record, I would think, just to remind us that our best friends and those to whom we give the greatest economic support will turn on us immediately when it serves their interests.

Sincerely yours,

Carl L. Shipley

CLS
h
Enclosure

DECLASSIFIED

Why Israel attacked US warship

By Edward Mortimer

The Americans promised the Russians they would "personally knock out all the Israeli missile sites and bomber assault bases and even airborne bombers" if Israel tried to escalate the 1967 war by launching missile attacks on Arab cities, it is claimed in a book published yesterday.

The book, by Anthony Pearson, a British freelance journalist, is an account of an investigation into the circumstances of and reasons for the Israeli attack, on the fourth day of the war, on the American naval vessel Liberty, in which 34 American soldiers were killed and 171 wounded.

Mr Pearson, quoting sources in the British and American intelligence services, says that the Liberty a converted Second World War cargo ship serving as communications post and intelligence-gathering vessel, was accompanied below the surface by the Polaris submarine Andrew Jackson.

He quotes an unnamed "general in the Pentagon" as confirming to him that this submarine was briefed to "attack and destroy Israeli missile bases if so ordered" so as to prevent the war escalating into a direct Soviet-American confrontation.

"In 30 minutes we could have knocked out every effective Israeli missile site. A submarine had to be used in such a plan because of its concealment capability. To avoid detection it could not use its monitoring gear. That was Liberty's role."

Israel was known even then to have nuclear capability, according to this source, but was not thought likely to use it because the targets were too close for Israel to avoid the effects of fall-out. "But even if an attack had been made using missiles with conventional warheads it would have provoked a Soviet response."

The same source is quoted as saying "there was no way the normal intelligence networks could be trusted because of Israeli infiltration". However, the source does not believe that the Israelis "knew the full implications of Liberty's orders and her role".

He thinks "they hit her simply to stop the ship passing the information to Washington that the Israeli Army was overrunning Jordanian territory in contravention of every agreement made with the United States Government and was planning to escalate the war, despite the UN call for a cease-fire, attack Syria and overrun the Golan".

He thus confirms Mr Pearson's earlier thesis, expounded in two articles in *Penthouse* magazine in 1976, that the purpose of the attack was to stop the Americans monitoring Israel's military communications and particularly her skilful doctoring of inter-Arab radio traffic so as to make the Jordanians think the Egyptian military position was much better than it really was, and vice versa.

Mr Pearson says that "documents made available in 1977 under the Freedom of Information Act and from my own State Department sources" have now confirmed that General Moshe Dayan, then Israel's Defence Minister and now Foreign Minister, "personally gave the order to attack and sink Liberty to prevent the ship breaking down his barrier of confusion and military secrecy".

Conspiracy of Silence : the Attack on the USS Liberty (Quartet Books, £4.99).

not to our knowledge

L.T. 8/8/78

DECLASSIFIED

(267)

released by Dept. of Treasury

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

DAK RE: LIBERTY CH ~~DK~~ MD

September 28, 1978

CH/MD — Text ok. with no changes

TO: See Distribution

FROM: EB/IFD/OMA - Brian G. Crowe (X-20633)

SUBJECT: Draft Claims Report to Congress

Attached is the final draft of Treasury's 1978 claims report which will be submitted to Congress after it has been reviewed by the NAC.

Treasury would like to have the NAC approve the report on October 3. We would therefore like to be advised if you have any problems with this latest version by c.o.b. Friday, September 29. This version is based on last years report as amended by inputs from our Embassies.

See Past page

Distribution:

NEA/AFN - D. Hester, Rm. 5248 A
EA/PRCM - R. Hart, Rm. 4318 A
ARA/CCA - A. Bowen, Rm. 3250
ARA/ANS/E - J. Allitto, Rm. 5262
NEA/EGY - C. Kennedy, Rm. 6251
AF/E - K. Garland, Rm. 5240
EUR/CE - S. Klingman, Rm. 4228
EUR/SE - J. Morton, Rm. 5511
NEA/ARN - D. Reuther, Rm. 6250A
NEA/IAI - W. Smith, Rm. 6247
EA/VLC - J. Johnson, Rm. 5313
NEA/AFN - A. Bergstrom, Rm. 5248 A
AF/E - Rm. 5240
ARA/AND/P - D. Kemp, Rm. 5908
AF/W - J. Lewis, Rm. 4250
EA/VLC - R. Carroll, Rm. 5315

UNCLASSIFIED